IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A face information transmission system, comprising:

image acquisition means to acquire an image of ~~the~~ a face of a subject;

first generation means to generate first image information relating to said subject and including ~~the~~ positions of characteristic points of said face, based on the acquired image;

second generation means to generate second image information according to ~~the~~ a facial expression of the face of said subject based on the generated first image information; ~~and,~~

transmission means to transmit the generated second image information to a prescribed communication terminal,

utterance acquisition means to acquire utterances issued by said subject; and

image judgment means to judge whether or not said first image information satisfies prescribed conditions,

wherein, when said image judgment means judges that said first image information satisfies prescribed conditions, said second generation means generates second image information according to the facial expression of the face of said subject based, at least, on said first image information, and when said image judgment means judges that said first image information does not satisfy prescribed conditions, said second generation means generates second image information according to the facial expression of the face of said subject based on said utterances.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The face information transmission system according to Claim [[2]] 1, further comprising:

phoneme identification means to identify phonemes corresponding to an utterance acquired by said utterance acquisition means; and

phoneme judgment means to judge whether an identified phoneme satisfies prescribed conditions,

wherein, when said phoneme judgment means judges that said phoneme satisfies prescribed conditions, said second generation means generates second image information according to the facial expression of the face of said subject based, at least, on said phoneme, and when said phoneme judgment means judges that said phoneme does not satisfy prescribed conditions, said second generation means generates second image information according to the facial expression of the face of said subject based on said first image information.

Claim 4 (Original): The face information transmission system according to Claim 3, wherein, when neither said first image information nor said phoneme satisfies the respective prescribed conditions and said utterance cannot be acquired, said second generation means employs image information determined in advance as said second image information.

Claim 5 (Original): The face information transmission system according to Claim 1, wherein said first image information comprises information to identify the distribution of said characteristic points in the face of said subject.

Claim 6 (Original): The face information transmission system according to Claim 1, wherein said image acquisition means acquires images of said face along a time series, and

said first generation means generates said first image information including displacements in the positions of said characteristic points along a time series based on the acquired images.

Claim 7 (Original): The face information transmission system according to Claim 6, wherein said first image information includes information to identify the movement of said characteristic points relative to the face of said subject.

Claim 8 (New): A face information transmission system, comprising:

an image acquisition mechanism configured to acquire an image of a face of a subject;

a first generation mechanism configured to generate first image information relating to said subject and including positions of characteristic points of said face, based on the acquired image;

a second generation mechanism configured to generate second image information according to a facial expression of the face of said subject based on the generated first image information;

a transmission mechanism configured to transmit the generated second image information to a prescribed communication terminal;

an utterance acquisition mechanism configured to acquire utterances issued by said subject; and

an image judgment mechanism configured to judge whether or not said first image information satisfies prescribed conditions,

wherein, when said image judgment mechanism judges that said first image information satisfies prescribed conditions, said second generation mechanism generates second image information according to the facial expression of the face of said subject based, at least, on said first image information, and when said image judgment mechanism judges

that said first image information does not satisfy prescribed conditions, said second generation mechanism generates second image information according to the facial expression of the face of said subject based on said utterances.

Claim 9 (New): The face information transmission system according to Claim 8, further comprising:

a phoneme identification mechanism configured to identify phonemes corresponding to an utterance acquired by said utterance acquisition mechanism; and

a phoneme judgment mechanism configured to judge whether an identified phoneme satisfies prescribed conditions,

wherein, when said phoneme judgment mechanism judges that said phoneme satisfies prescribed conditions, said second generation mechanism generates second image information according to the facial expression of the face of said subject based, at least, on said phoneme, and when said phoneme judgment mechanism judges that said phoneme does not satisfy prescribed conditions, said second generation mechanism generates second image information according to the facial expression of the face of said subject based on said first image information.

Claim 10 (New): The face information transmission system according to Claim 9, wherein, when neither said first image information nor said phoneme satisfies the respective prescribed conditions and said utterance cannot be acquired, said second generation mechanism employs image information determined in advance as said second image information.

Claim 11 (New): The face information transmission system according to Claim 8, wherein said first image information comprises information to identify the distribution of said characteristic points in the face of said subject.

Claim 12 (New): The face information transmission system according to Claim 8, wherein said image acquisition mechanism acquires images of said face along a time series, and said first generation mechanism generates said first image information including displacements in the positions of said characteristic points along a time series based on the acquired images.

Claim 13 (New): The face information transmission system according to Claim 12, wherein said first image information includes information to identify the movement of said characteristic points relative to the face of said subject.